

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 2, 4-7, and 9-15 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 is provided for example in paragraphs [0086], [0098], [0102], and [0110] of the published specification.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected, under 35 USC §102(b), as anticipated by Sudo et al. (US 6,252,319). Claim 8 was rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as unpatentable over Higuchi (JP 2000-67497) in view of Sudo. Claim 16 was rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as unpatentable over Ishigami et al. (US 4,398,280) in view of Sudo. To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to the amended claims, the Applicant respectfully traverses as follows.

Claim 1 now defines a chucking apparatus disposed on a rotor-side receiving surface of a spindle motor. A plurality of pawl bodies are provided in a radial direction of a hub body of the rotor-side surface such that the pawl bodies can hold a disk within its center hole. A contact surface of a lower end of each of the pawl bodies with the rotor-side receiving surface has an arc shape (see Figs. 11 and 18 of the enclosed Exhibit for an exemplary, but non-limiting, embodiment of the claimed feature). The claimed subject matter provides an advantage of supporting the smooth movement of each pawl body's lower end within the pawl opening of the of the hub body (see specification page 2, fifth and sixth paragraphs). (References herein to the specification and drawings are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention to the referenced embodiments.)

The Office Action proposes that Sudo discloses, in Fig. 4, a pawl body (i.e., chucking claw) 45 having a lower end with an arc shape (see Office Action page 2, last two lines).

However, the Applicants note that a contact surface of Sudo's chucking claw 45 with a table portion 43 of spindle motor 2A is of a linear shape (see Fig. 4 of the enclosed Exhibit).

Claim 1 now recites that a contact surface of a pawl body with a rotor-side receiving surface is of an arc shape. In an exemplary, but non-limiting, embodiment of the claimed subject matter illustrated in Figs. 15-20, the claimed arc shape makes it possible to obtain the effect that a lower end surface 174 of a pawl portion 171 is in contact with a rotor-side receiving surface 31B and, in this state, the contact point between lower end surface 174 and receiving surface 31B moves inward little by little (see published specification paragraph [0010], last sentence). That is, in a state that a disk is inserted and lowered more than half of the height of a hub body 150, it is possible to obtain the effect that the contact point between lower end surface 174 and rotor-side receiving surface 31B is located at the right side (outside) of lower end surface 174, as shown in Fig. 18. As the disk is further lowered, the contact point is changed from the state of Fig. 19 to that of Fig. 20 and it moves from the right side (outside) to the left side (inside) little by little.

Thus, not only does the pawl body move in the centrifugal direction, but also its contact point moves from the outside to the inside and also swings. As a result, it is possible to obtain a feature of the claimed invention that a large load is not required when a disk presses down the pawl body at the time of inserting it; and the sliding motion of the pawl body and the hub body can be carried out smoothly so that the pressed down tip end of the pawl body moves up to finally clamp the disk stably from above.

Also, during the initial stage immediately before a disk is inserted and until the disk is lowered about half of the height of hub body 150, it is possible to obtain the effect that the contact point between lower end surface 174 and rotor-side receiving surface 31B is firstly located at the left side (inside) of lower end surface 174, as shown in Fig. 15. As the disk is further lowered, the contact point is changed from the state of Fig. 16 to that of Fig. 17 and it moves from the right side (outside) to the left side (inside) little by little. As mentioned above, this feature exhibits the effects that a large load is not required to press down the tip end of the pawl body and the sliding motion of the pawl body and the hub body can be carried out smoothly.

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that Sudo does not anticipate the subject matter now defined by claim 1. Therefore, it is submitted that the rejections applied to claims 1, 8 and 16 are obviated, and allowance of claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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